Real-time Auction Data Flow

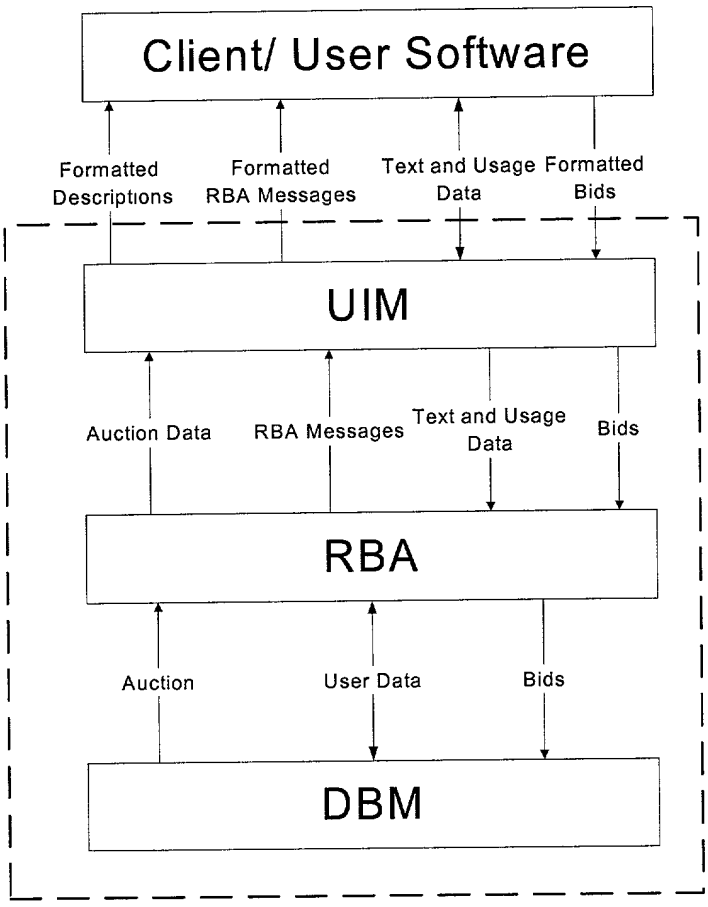

FIG. 1

Real-time Auction Database Manager

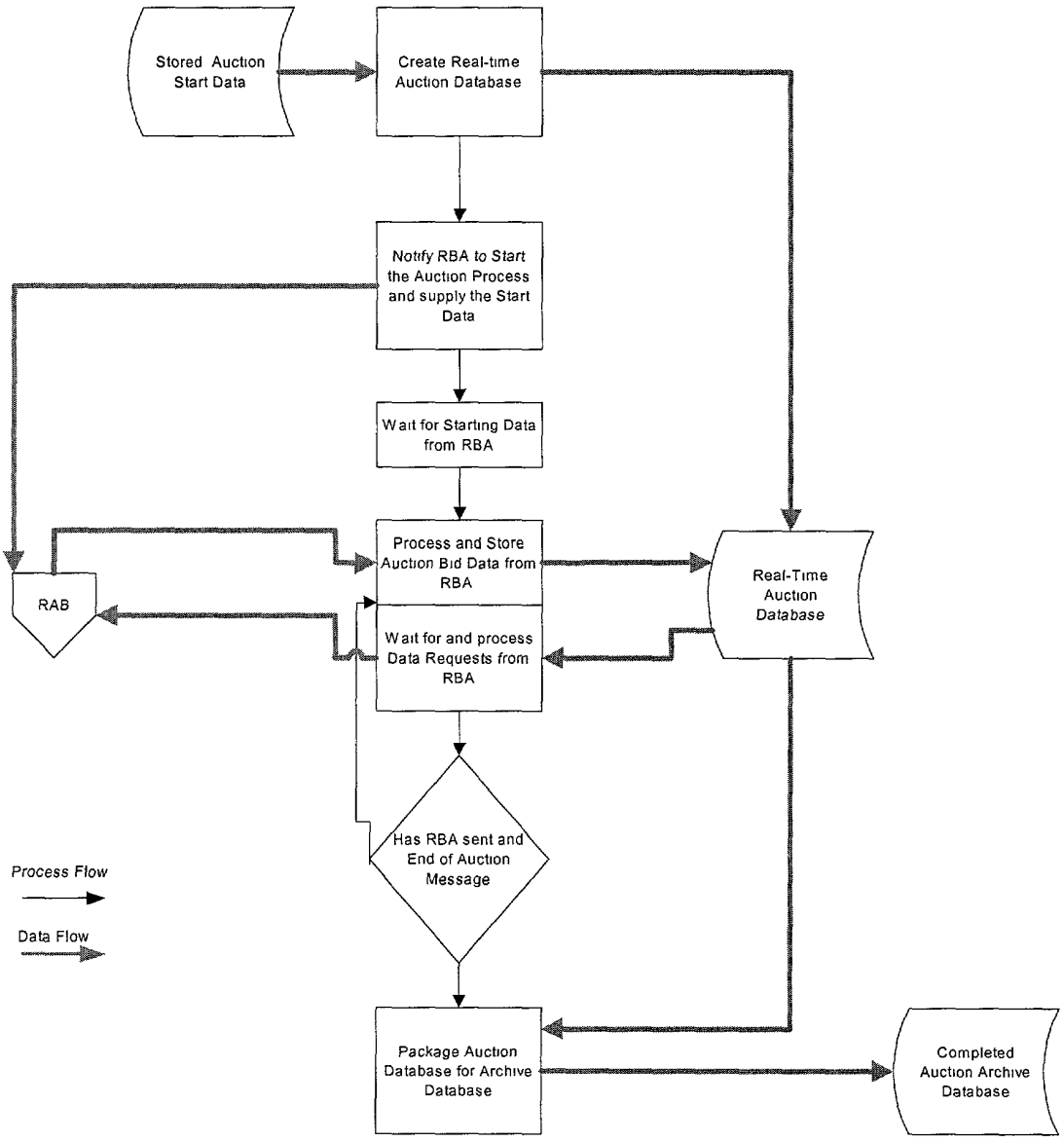

FIG. 2

Rules-based Auction
User Interface Manager (UIM)

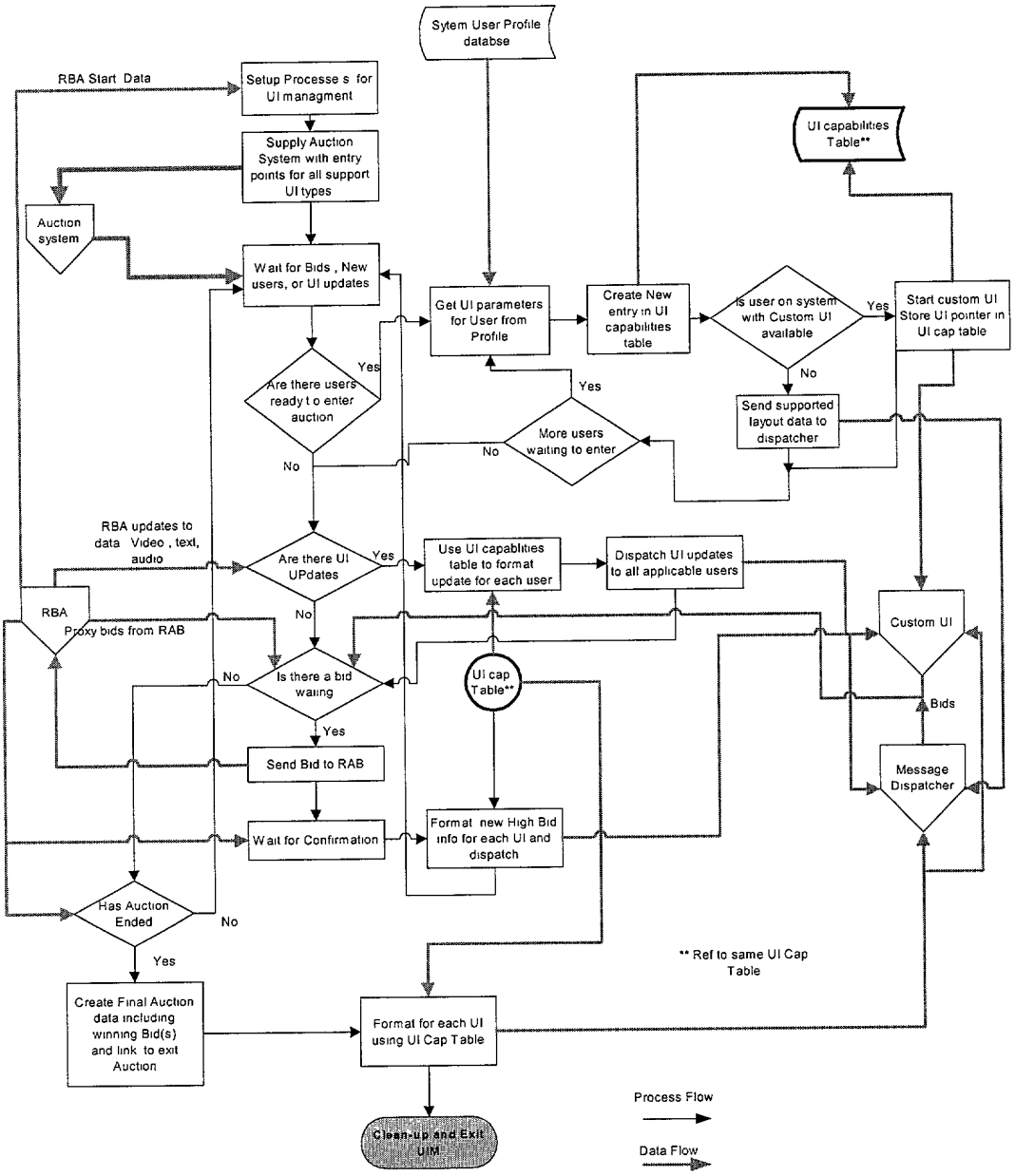

FIG. 3

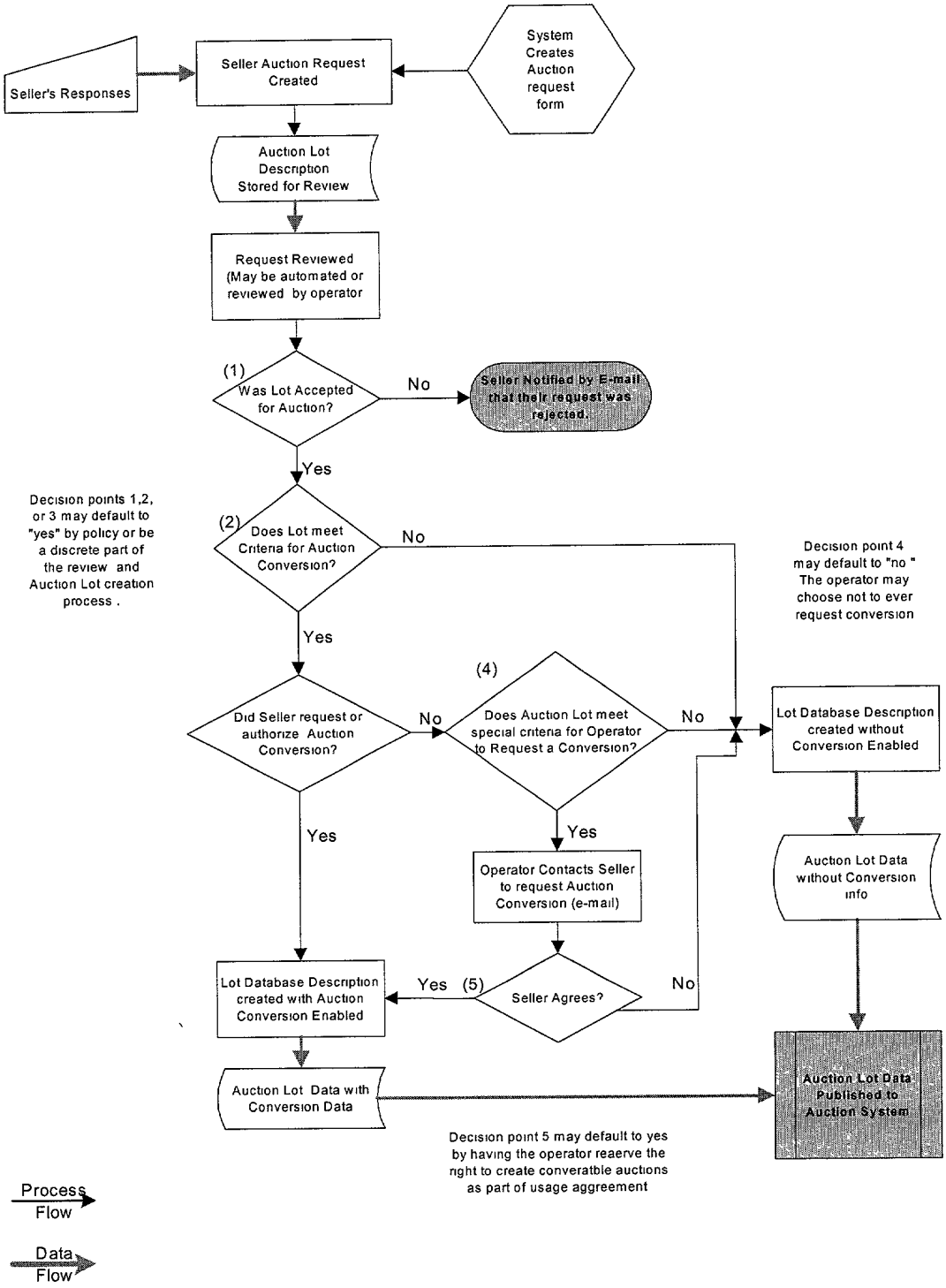
Seller's Responses
Seller Auction Request Created
System Creates Auction request form
Auction Lot Description Stored for Review
Request Reviewed (May be automated or reviewed by operator
(1) Was Lot Accepted for Auction?
No
Seller Notified by E-mail that their request was rejected.
Yes
Decision points 1,2, or 3 may default to "yes" by policy or be a discrete part of the review and Auction Lot creation process .
(2) Does Lot meet Criteria for Auction Conversion?
No
Yes
Decision point 4 may default to "no " The operator may choose not to ever request conversion
Did Seller request or authorize Auction Conversion?
No
(4) Does Auction Lot meet special criteria for Operator to Request a Conversion?
No
Lot Database Description created without Conversion Enabled
Yes
Yes
Operator Contacts Seller to request Auction Conversion (e-mail)
Auction Lot Data without Conversion info
Lot Database Description created with Auction Conversion Enabled
Yes (5) Seller Agrees?
No
Auction Lot Data with Conversion Data
Auction Lot Data Published to Auction System
Decision point 5 may default to yes by having the operator reaerve the right to create converatble auctions as part of usage aggreement
Process Flow
Data Flow

FIG. 4

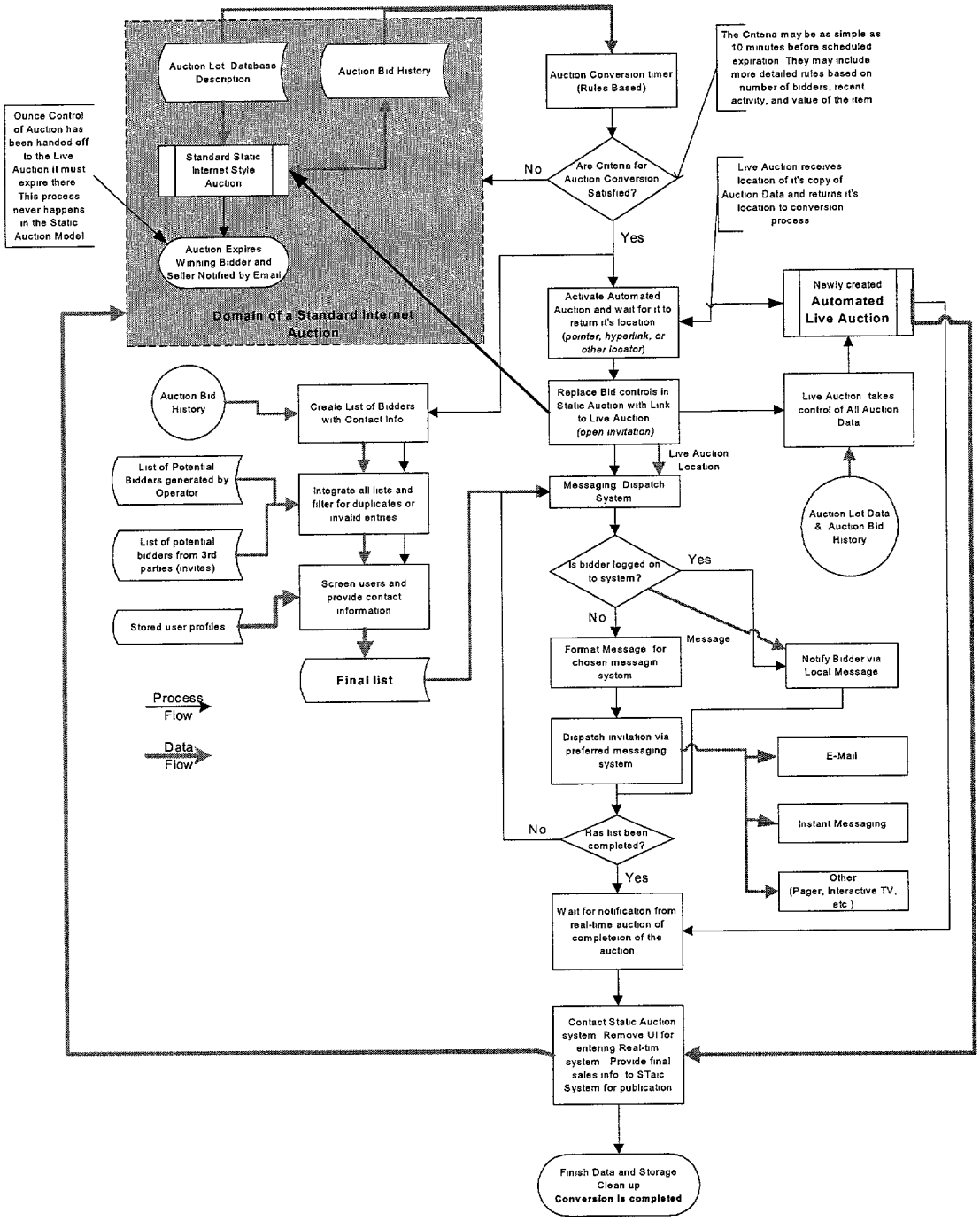
Auction Lot Database Description
Auction Bid History
Standard Static Internet Style Auction
Auction Expires Winning Bidder and Seller Notified by Email
Domain of a Standard Internet Auction
Ounce Control of Auction has been handed off to the Live Auction it must expire there This process never happens in the Static Auction Model
Auction Conversion timer (Rules Based)
The Criteria may be as simple as 10 minutes before scheduled expiration They may include more detailed rules based on number of bidders, recent activity, and value of the item
No
Are Criteria for Auction Conversion Satisfied?
Yes
Live Auction receives location of it's copy of Auction Data and returns it's location to conversion process
Activate Automated Auction and wait for it to return it's location (pointer, hyperlink, or other locator)
Newly created Automated Live Auction
Auction Bid History
Create List of Bidders with Contact Info
Replace Bid controls in Static Auction with Link to Live Auction (open invitation)
Live Auction takes control of All Auction Data
List of Potential Bidders generated by Operator
Integrate all lists and filter for duplicates or invalid entries
Live Auction Location
Messaging Dispatch System
Auction Lot Data & Auction Bid History
List of potential bidders from 3rd parties (invites)
Is bidder logged on to system?
Yes
Screen users and provide contact information
Stored user profiles
No
Format Message for chosen messagin system
Message
Notify Bidder via Local Message
Final list
Process Flow
Data Flow
Dispatch invitation via preferred messaging system
E-Mail
Instant Messaging
Other (Pager, Interactive TV, etc)
No
Has list been completed?
Yes
Wait for notification from real-time auction of completeion of the auction
Contact Static Auction system Remove UI for entenng Real-tim system Provide final sales info to STaic System for publication
Finish Data and Storage Clean up
Conversion is completed

FIG. 5

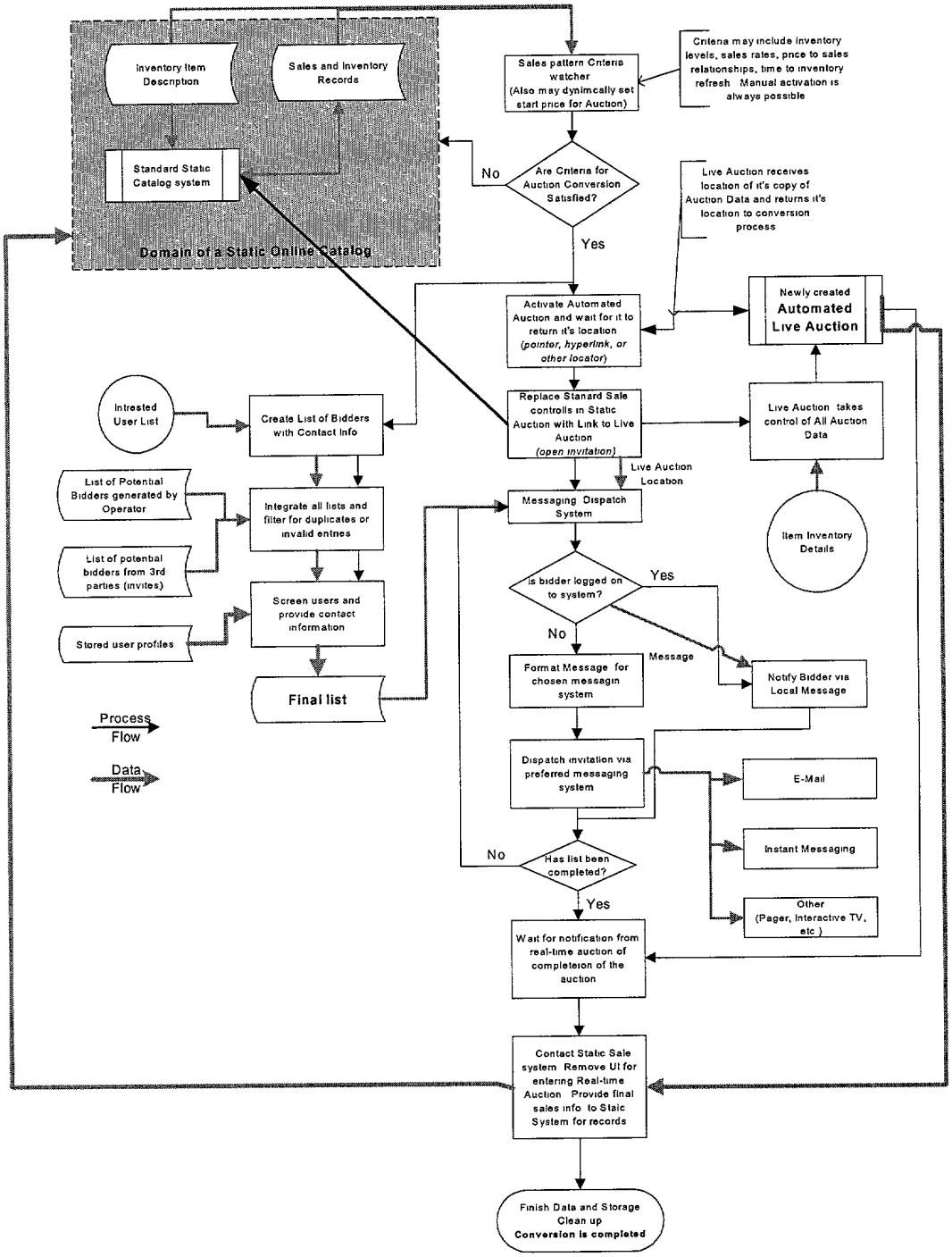
Inventory Item Description
Sales and Inventory Records
Standard Static Catalog system
Domain of a Static Online Catalog
Sales pattern Criteria watcher (Also may dynimcally set start price for Auction)
Criteria may include inventory levels, sales rates, price to sales relationships, time to inventory refresh Manual activation is always possible
No
Are Criteria for Auction Conversion Satisfied?
Yes
Live Auction receives location of it's copy of Auction Data and returns it's location to conversion process
Activate Automated Auction and wait for it to return it's location (pointer, hyperlink, or other locator)
Newly created Automated Live Auction
Intrested User List
Create List of Bidders with Contact Info
Replace Stanard Sale controlls in Static Auction with Link to Live Auction (open invitation)
Live Auction takes control of All Auction Data
List of Potential Bidders generated by Operator
Integrate all lists and filter for duplicates or invalid entries
Live Auction Location
Messaging Dispatch System
Item Inventory Details
List of potential bidders from 3rd parties (invites)
Is bidder logged on to system?
Yes
No
Screen users and provide contact information
Stored user profiles
Format Message for chosen messagin system
Message
Notify Bidder via Local Message
Final list
Process Flow
Data Flow
Dispatch invitation via preferred messaging system
E-Mail
Instant Messaging
Other (Pager, Interactive TV, etc)
No
Has list been completed?
Yes
Wait for notification from real-time auction of completeion of the auction
Contact Static Sale system Remove UI for entering Real-time Auction Provide final sales info to Staic System for records
Finish Data and Storage Clean up
Conversion is completed

FIG. 6